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Neglected Arabia





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# NEGLECTED ARABIA

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FIVE ARAB WOMEN BEING CONDUCTED BY ONE MAN FROM ONE COAST TOWN TO ANOTHER

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# The Arabian Mission

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## “The Home Church and Missions”

JOHN Y. BROEK

The best thing that can be done for any church is to get the church thoroughly absorbed in Missions. It will lend a correct perspective to every other Christian activity. It will give the church a vision to offset its selfishness, contracted sympathies, and narrowness of view. Each local church needs to realize that the field of its activity is the world. The broader our vision of the church's work in the world, the keener our insight into the needs of the local work at home. The church which inaugurates a missionary policy has taken out a perpetual insurance against spiritual decay. Where active interest in missions abounds, there is found the healthiest Christianity, for the Gospel tells us that the real secret of a happy life is to live for others.



KUWEIT BAZAAR, MISSIONARY IN CENTER

The pastor must be the leader. He must have a burning passion for this cause. He must believe in it and his heart must throb for it. He must be willing to plead ardently before his own congregation for the millions in heathendom who cannot plead for themselves. The sheep will follow where the Shepherd leadeth, but the Shepherd must lead if he expects the sheep to follow. Public prayers, sermons, and exhortations must have a genuine missionary ring. He is to lay this important work on the hearts of his people.

The cause of missions should be constantly held before the congregation as the great reason for the organization of the church. Interest must ever be kept alive. Missionary education should be conducted in Bible School. In this department of the church's activities lies the golden opportunity for the future missionary church. And what topics are more inviting and appealing to young people than the heroic struggles and advances of Christianity. By all means, train and

interest the young people. It will be the tonic and inspiration to their Christian growth and culture.

The labors of individual missionaries and the cause of missions at large should be frequently brought to the throne of grace. Intelligent knowledge is necessary, before people can pray aright for this work.

The reflex influence of such a spirit and interest will be most beneficent. A church thoroughly awakened to the need of saving and redeeming lives in heathen land will be aroused to the personal witnessing for Christ at home. The light that shines farthest will burn brightly at home. No Christian can grow, blossom, and bear fruit without a warm heart for the extension of Christ's Kingdom. All that the missionaries have suffered, and all that they have accomplished, has been the most precious gift to the church.

The above article is written from a stirring conviction, strengthened by a four years' pastorate in Trinity Church, Plainfield, N. J., where the missionary zeal was greatly quickened by increased gifts and prayers, by organization of two new Reformed churches in Plainfield, and by the support of Dr. Paul W. Harrison, as the church's Missionary in Arabia.

Plainfield, N. J.

## Forty Million Dollars for Arabia

JOHN VAN ESS

That is the amount Sir William Willcocks estimates as being required to irrigate Mesopotamia. Sir William is a godly man, and he makes his work a part of his religion. In 1909 I had the pleasure of a month with him on a prospecting tour in the plains and deserts back of Baghdad. Every morning he used to spend half an hour in prayer before setting out for the day, prayer for himself and for the twelve engineers under him. His creed was to make two blades of grass grow where one or none grew before. To do that in Mesopotamia would cost forty million dollars. And what would be the result? In eight years the population quadrupled, a land smiling with grain, and the region once again the granary of the world.

An enterprise is worth what it is worth to the individual. Taking as an average lifetime thirty-three years, forty million dollars would fill the stomach of this man, and that, and that, for a third of a century. But a hundred years hence it will not make much difference with what or with how much he filled it. But a hundred years hence this man, and that, and that, will still be living on and on and on, the same thinking, feeling individuality. I can do more for him than Sir William Willcocks can, infinitely more, and for infinitely more, when I count the heritage of faith to unborn thousands.

Estimating on the same basis of ultimate efficiency, my figure would be a *hundred thousand dollars*.

### I. *Where Would I Spend It?*

In Busrah, because in another few years it will be on the highroad to the Far East and India, will be the port of all Turkish Arabia, and the cynosure of all Europe.



## 2. *How Would I Spend It?*

For an agricultural and industrial school, as follows:

For 20 acres of land on the outskirts of the city, containing excellent brick-clay deposits.....	\$3,000
For dormitory, including teachers' residences....	20,000
For classrooms and laboratories.....	10,000
For machine shop and irrigating power.....	8,000
For equipment .....	9,000

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\$50,000

For endowment .....	50,000
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Total .....	\$100,000
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## 3. *What Would Be the Dividends?*

a. Two or three hundred young lives each year taught the dignity of labor, the possibility of hands and head, regardless of birth or station, and withal, and most of all, two or three hundred young lives daily under the influence of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the carpenter-man, the God-Saviour.

b. The solution of the problem of the support of converts.

If we can grow cotton we can spin and weave it; if we can grow sugar we can refine it. A plant such as is contemplated can become the center of a self-contained colony, where the principles of Jesus Christ are the rule and law, where labor is supplemented by study, secular and religious, and where the church is the heart and goal of it all.

So, if you have a hundred thousand dollars, and want to see it again after a hundred thousand years, I can honestly recommend this proposition.

Is this only a vision or a day-dream? Hardly, for we are headed for that goal already. Last year seventy-five boys were enrolled at the end of the term in the Busrah Boys' School, among them eight from the family of the most powerful sheikh in the region. One of these will command thousands of men when he comes of age, another is already in his own right chief of ten thousand Arabs. The annual budget of expenses for the school as it stands is \$2,500. Would you like to be solely and entirely responsible for the maintenance of the school for one year? Perhaps you do not feel able to do that. Divide it by twelve and you may find it possible to own your own school in Arabia for a month. Or take it from another angle: For \$300 a year you can support a native teacher, a Christian man, and a graduate of an American Mission institution. I would be pleased to call him your teacher for that year. Again, \$100 will supply all the free books needed for all the poor boys for a year, and leave a margin to make them glad with something beside. Or even a dollar, given in faith and love, and with a prayer for me, and the teachers, and God's School, will gladden our hearts and will doubly bless you, for you will see it at work now, and will meet it again after a hundred thousand years.

Busrah, P. G.

## The General Work and Its Financial Needs

JAMES E. MOERDYK

All the workers in the Arabian Mission have implicit faith in the church at home and in all who contribute to the support of the work in Arabia. We think that occasional brief statements concerning the finances of the work, and made by those who are actually on the field, will be of interest and help our contributors to understand the reasons for increased expenditures and more frequent requests for their support.

The statement has repeatedly been made that all the workers in the Arabian Mission are foreigners to the country. This means all your missionaries and every Christian helper, such as colporteurs, teachers, helpers in the hospitals, and other branches of work. There are no Christians in the country whom we can employ. Every one of our helpers comes from a home farther north in Asia Minor from churches under the charge of the American Board. Every man must travel for twenty-four days by caravan, and river raft, and steamer to come down to us. This means quite a sum for actual traveling expenses, and as the work has grown, we have been obliged to send for more men. The cost of bringing their families back and forth also makes up quite a sum.

Partly because the workers are foreigners, and partly because the actual cost of living is so high, the salaries of these men are much higher than is the case in fields where the helpers are native to the place. The lowest salary comes up to two hundred dollars per year, and in the case of teachers and others who have had some special training the salaries are higher still. The cost of traveling back and forth in the work is also very high here. It costs the missionary about seven and eight cents per mile when he travels per steamer from station to station or to different places along the coast. The hire of a donkey or camel comes up to fifty cents and a dollar per day, and then one must also furnish the fodder, and the food for the man who comes along to take care of the animal. One must take quite an outfit when out on these trips, and the longer the trip the more is necessary to last until the return to the station, so that very often the caravan consists of several animals. Many of these trips are crowded into the time possible for traveling, and this kind of expense grows larger as we cover new ground and enter larger territories.

In order to appreciate the large area which we plan to cover in our work one must refresh his knowledge of distances here. The Mission in Baghdad has a comparatively small district as its objective. And the Mission in Aden plans for only some of the surrounding country and places near to that district. But this Mission has as its objective the interior of Arabia. Along the eastern coast of Arabia and as far as we have been able to penetrate, the distances are large enough to tax our time and means. It is a journey of from three to five days per steamer to go from one station to another. In itinerating one can travel for weeks and return by quite another route, all the time visiting new places. And up to date we have not yet been able to penetrate

inland. As far as we have been able to get inland is still accounted as belonging to the coast territory. Some years it happens that very little traveling is accomplished. This year, for instance, because of the threatened revolution and tribal fighting in Oman, very little will be accomplished in the way of itinerating. And the territory just back of Bahrein has been closed for several years. But one must always plan to go inland whenever the way shall be open, and for this reason our budget for this department of the work is always put up to the top figure. When once the opportunity will offer to really go into the interior, and it will be possible to remain there, the cost of this work will increase very much and almost without any previous warning.

The Mission believes in so-called institutional work in the stations, and for several years past there has been a steady preparation for more systematized hospital and school work. The past few years have seen something in the way of a realization of these past plans. This has increased the cost of our station work considerably, and this will be



BIBLE SHOP ON MARKET STREET, KUWEIT

increased still more in the immediate present as well as the future; for it takes a long time out here to get a real start, but when once begun it pays to push the work as fast as possible. There has been real progress in the enlargement of the station work, but this has sometimes come to pass as something of a surprise, even although the plans for it had been made years before.

Every one is apt to ask about the actual results in the work thus far attempted and accomplished. The work was begun several years ago, stations have been established and the work there has been enlarged, but what have been the actual results? Men want to know how many converts there are, and how many churches have been organized. There is no favorable reply to these inquiries. Almost noth-

ing has been accomplished as permanent results of this kind. No one is more disappointed than the workers on the field. But is there any other single Mission in the Mohammedan field that can point to many results of this kind? And ought we for this reason to stop working? or ought we to confine our efforts to the places now occupied and not to think of the places beyond? Surely we have not been sent to preach the Gospel for the sake of results to the church, but to present the Gospel to the people for their own sakes so that they may have the opportunity to lay hold on eternal life. We cannot wait for the people in the stations to get ready to accept the Gospel, or for the people of the other places to come to us before we give the Gospel to all Arabia. We believe we have been sent to witness unto all the people, and although the work in the stations must not be forsaken nor neglected, we must enter the regions beyond as soon as the opportunity offers, whether we can point to results or not, and perhaps at much increased cost.

## What One Hundred Dollars Will Do in Arabia

EDWIN E. CALVERLEY

The appropriation that comes to the Evangelistic Department in Kuwait every month is three hundred and twenty-five rupees, which is about one hundred and six dollars. The budgets of the other stations of the Mission are larger or smaller, according as their opportunities and activities are greater or less. The sum mentioned does not include the salary allowances of the missionaries, nor building accounts, nor expenditures for equipment, as chairs, book cases, stereopticons, which are usually provided by special funds. Nor does it represent the total sum handled by that department, for the book and church accounts and some others are kept separate. Nor does it cover all the evangelistic work done in the station, for both the men's and women's medical departments conduct on their own account services that are definitely evangelistic. However, with these exclusions in mind, it may be said that one hundred dollars will pay for the work of one department of missionary work in one station for one month.

The sum is divided somewhat as follows:

There is \$21.00 for the renting and repairing of two houses, but only \$9.75 of this is being drawn upon as yet. This amount secured the best dwelling available in Kuwait, which was a house of five rooms and a kitchen. One room is assigned to the cook and house-boy, and another is dedicated to church and school uses. Of the others, one is designated guest room, and has done excellent service as such through the year. The dining room and upstairs bedroom complete the account. The repair allowance last year built a wooden shed that provided bath-room facilities and this year will build an additional bedroom for the pater familias. The medical missionary has not rented a house as yet, and his quarters are one-half of the examination room, where he sees his dispensary patients. There is every prospect, however, that, before another year passes, a new and comfortable house



will be built to accommodate the doctor in charge of the new hospital now being completed.

Complementary to the house appropriation is the vacation allowance. This amounts to \$28.00 for three people, but only \$10.50, or perhaps \$8.00, will be used, as only one member of the station went to India this year. Vacations need no justification, but that word hardly describes the exodus from the Mission stations. They are rather enforced avoidances of the Arabian summers, made necessary by waning strength, or by impossible house accommodations for enduring the summer heat, or by need of special medical or dental attention, or by the children.

The above items may be classed as missionary maintenance. The next item is \$5.50 for book-shop rent. This secures an excellent location on the main street, where the books are displayed to the best ad-



BAHREIN GIRL'S SCHOOL

vantage. In the shop from one hundred to two hundred visitors are entertained each month, and many of these have the Gospel explained to them fully or in part. Hardly a day passes without the sale of one or more portions of the Scriptures, and while some of these are torn up and others are bought by boys and taken from them by their parents, still no small number is carried into the homes of the people. The hope of placing a copy of the Scriptures in every house in the town is, however, far from accomplishment. Besides Scriptures, educational books are sold, including Arabic and English language lessons, geography, history, arithmetic, and Arabic poetry. Here also religious and controversial books are given away free to those whose interest has been aroused. Not enough business is done to pay the rent and other charges, but the profits of the book sales are devoted to increasing the stock.

The maintenance of the shop includes \$2.25 per month for newspapers and magazines from Cairo and Beirut, water, fans, and cigarettes, which seem to be a necessary hospitality. The colporteur in



charge receives \$20.00 per month as his salary. This sum supports a first-class young man and his mother, in a house not much smaller than the missionary's, and enables him to maintain a satisfactory position in the town, as well as secure books for his self-advancement. This young man has recently given up the possibility of entering government employ at triple the salary he receives from the Mission, showing that the spirit with which the work is conducted is not monopolized by the missionaries, nor included in the salary account. He teaches English to the few that can be induced to attend the school, and is in charge of the shop. He has also made tours to the only places in the vicinity of Kuwait, where visits could be made. The budget provides \$7.50 for this object. This year the tours were merely introductory, for never before had a Christian worker visited these three places.

Another portion of this \$7.50 was used this year in bringing a second colporteur to the field from his home in the Euphrates Valley, distant at present about a month's journey. This separation in time makes the assistants as much foreigners to the field as the missionaries themselves, but the Baghdad railway, now building, will be a great advantage for them and also enable the Mission to secure workers more easily.

The salary of this colporteur is \$16.00 per month, and is also well earned. His special work is to give every dispensary patient the opportunity to hear and purchase the Scriptures. Besides this, he canvasses the streets of the town for possible purchasers. This is a less enviable occupation than that of the book agent at home, and also gives less results, as the restrictions here are greater. Here there is never any house-to-house solicitation, because that method could never be permitted by the Moslem system of society. So he parades the streets and approaches individuals and joins groups whenever he can. This year he has suffered many indignities, has been stoned and beaten by gangs of boys and had his books stolen from him even by men. He has endured all this and more without retaliation, because it would not do to risk a prohibition of this effort at advanced work by making complaints. This forbearance under persecution is one of the things that contributors to missions do not pay for, but secure through their prayers.

Another activity of this colporteur, costing \$1.50 per month, is visiting the ships that make Kuwait a port of call. He carries the Scriptures in Arabic, Persian, Gujarati, and English, for the pilgrims and other travelers of the Gulf. His sales are quite encouraging, and send the Gospel to more places than the missionaries can themselves visit.

The monthly budget sets aside also \$3.50 for the station's expenses in traveling to the annual Mission Meeting. This convention not only reports the work of the past year and plans for the coming one, but it also allows that social and spiritual fellowship which removes the depressions and angularities of lonely stations and renews enthusiasm and inspires new visions and new faith for the work. There is no more necessary expenditure than this, which allows a review of the work done and provides instruction and inspiration for the work of the coming year.

A further expenditure is \$.75 per month for stationery and postage, which are about all the office expenses the ordinary station has. This

year the sum has provided new and standard loose-leaf account books, which should save time and trouble in bookkeeping.

These sums form the regular monthly budget of the evangelistic department of Kuwait station. This year the appropriation provided even exceeded the expenditures that were necessary, and possible, for at times it was not possible to secure what was needed. But all the funds available find most excellent uses. For instance, one-half of the year's vacation allowance was not used by the missionaries for that purpose, but came in very fortunately for a most necessary addition to the appropriation for the new hospital, and there are many other extra budget necessities that call for extra appropriation gifts. But the amounts mentioned are the sums without which the work could not



INTERIOR OF KUWEIT BIBLE SHOP

be carried on. They are sums that are needed regularly and are perfectly certain to be provided regularly because the need and the supply are both known and controlled by One Director over all.

Kuweit, P. G.

## What \$10,000 Would Do for Our Arabian Medical Work

H. G. VAN VLACK

It is not the purpose of this article to outline a scheme for a new hospital, but rather to show the need of added equipment, how \$10,000 could be used to increase the quality and quantity of the work done in the places where we are now at work. How it will help us to do better work, increasing the efficiency of the present hospitals and that of the doctors laboring in them.

At present, we have hospitals at Bahrein and Busrah. At Kuwait, the hospital is nearing completion. Money has been appropriated for

the Matrah Hospital, but as yet it has been impossible to procure the necessary land. Good work is being done at all of these stations. Yet much is to be desired in the way of added buildings and equipment. It is well known that the best hospitals are those with the best equipments for the care and treatment of their patients. The best, and most skillful doctors and surgeons are handicapped unless they have the equipment necessary for reaching quickly and accurately the diagnosis of the case. Next, apparatus is necessary for treatment, medical or surgical, as the case may be. These things are known and recognized in our American cities. In fact, so well is it known, that the ordinary hospital in America or Europe spends as much money, if not more, for the equipment as for the hospital building itself.

If the above is true in America, where there are specialists, and specialists in every class of diseases, and special clinics, to say nothing of special hospitals for the different classes of diseases, as eye hospitals, children's hospitals, emergency hospitals, tuberculosis hospitals, hospitals for infectious diseases, and so on, how much more is it true here in Arabia, where every doctor must receive and treat every manner of disease? We cannot send our cases to specialists nor to special hospitals. We must treat them as best we can with the tools we have at hand. Most of the cases we must put in a common ward, whether medical or surgical. It is almost impossible to separate infected from clean cases. We have no laboratories and no equipment for one except, perhaps, a microscope and a blood-counting apparatus. We have the ability and a wonderful opportunity for scientific investigation of the cause and prevention of diseases. But we have no place in which to work and no apparatus with which to work. Our time is so limited by the pressure of work that we should have the best apparatus available, so as to make our time and opportunity count for the most. This work would count, not only for the work now being done in Arabia, but for the good of future generations of doctors and for the people of the whole world. There is no time like the present and no place like the home of the disease in which to study its cause and treatment. For example, here we have the home of the Baghdad or date boil. Its cause is still unknown and its successful treatment very uncertain.

What would ten thousand dollars do? It would not bring our hospitals up to the standard of that of our American hospitals. It *would* enable us to purchase needed equipment, and perhaps add to the capacity of our existing hospitals. We *could* equip at least modest laboratories in all of our hospitals, and best of all we might be able to establish one well-equipped laboratory where some thorough scientific investigations could be carried out.

Let me take the case of Busrah as an illustration. I do not select Busrah because its needs are greatest, but because I am better acquainted with this station and its requirements. What I say of Busrah will apply equally well to the other stations. Perhaps their needs are greater than those of Busrah owing to the gift of the University of Michigan to the operating room at Busrah. Here we have at present two fairly large wards, one for the women and one for the men. Four private rooms capable of holding two beds each in case of necessity (the necessity seems ever present). One small building of two rooms serves for such cases as cholera, plague, smallpox, and dysentery. At present



many patients must camp outside in the garden. I have told what we have excepting the operating room and dispensary rooms. Now to the needs. In the first place we need additional rooms for patients, either in the shape of small wards or private rooms. There should be a dark room for eye examinations, a small operating room for infected cases. Among the apparatus that we all need are blood-pressure apparatus, crematories for destroying infected dressings, sputum, etc., X-ray apparatus, electrical apparatus for nervous diseases. Then I might add that there is always need of additional surgical instruments.

To my mind the greatest need just now is for a small, well-equipped laboratory in each hospital. I would make these complete enough for all clinical analyses, and for some scientific investigation which each doctor could carry on in his own hospital and station as he finds time. Each man has the opportunity constantly to see many unusual tropi-



READY FOR THE DISPENSARY PREACHING AT KUWEIT

cal and subtropical diseases. We, as doctors, want to investigate these so as to add to the world's store of medical and surgical knowledge. We want to find out the cause, and if possible the prevention or cure, of these deadly tropical diseases. To do this we *must* have laboratories and laboratory equipment.

I should choose Busrah for the main laboratory and give it a first-rate equipment. Why Busrah? Because of its location at the head of the Persian Gulf and near the confluence of the great rivers of Arabia and Persia. Here patients come to us from the river basins of Persia, and Arabia, and from the deserts and plains; as well as sailors from the vessels hailing from all parts of the world. A place is needed for this work with hot and cold rooms, or at least incubators for growing bacteria. We need sterilizing ovens, an autoclave, and countless test tubes, dishes, and other utensils for bacteriological work. Then there is the

pathological work (study of diseased tissues) with the apparatus needed for this, microtomes, freezing apparatus, warming ovens, stains and chemicals.

What could we investigate? What could we study? Material is not lacking. Here we have Leprosy, Madura Foot, Baghdad Boil, to say nothing of Vesical Calculus, Liver abscesses, the many forms of eye diseases, and other diseases almost unknown in America, but found in abundance about us. The cause of some of these diseases is still unknown, and on the others there is still much work to be done.

Our command is to go and heal the nations. What can be a greater missionary work than to find the cause and help the people to prevent these diseases? Surely money could not be given to a better cause than to the prevention and cure of disease. It is far nobler to prevent a disease than to cure one after it has been contracted. To-day preventive medicine is becoming as great, if not greater, than surgical or medical treatment.

I have attempted to show briefly what is needed and what we can do with ten thousand dollars. Who will help us to save this diseased nation? We want your prayers and of your dollars in this work.

Busrah, P. G.

## What Five Dollars Will Do in Arabia

MRS. J. E. VAN PEURSEM

Many of the readers of "Neglected Arabia" have no doubt been more zealous in their prayers for the Lord's work in Arabia and His workers since they have read the last number of "Neglected Arabia." Many have learned of the difficulties and the temptations the workers meet with, many of which they had never thought before. There is no end of appeals for prayers, for we know that only God can bring success and victory. We must pray and pray more. Our friends who pray for us truly and sincerely will naturally give us much, as they can, toward the support of our work. If they do not give themselves, they will help financially and consequently be interested to know what is done with their money. Few people realize that the larger bulk of our expense is outside of the Missionary's salary. Such expenses include hospital supplies, as drugs, bedding, servants, etc. One also needs money for schools, touring, book-shop rents, etc.

It is surprising, however, how much can be done with a comparatively small sum. Five thousand dollars will build a house; ten thousand dollars, a large hospital; five hundred dollars, two rooms; fifty dollars will buy six doors, and five more will add a cupboard to your house or hospital. But let us see what we can do in our hospital with five dollar bills. Let us have twenty of them, each from a different giver, and distribute them as we need them most. No. 1 will go for a bedstead; No. 2 will buy us two mattresses; No. 3, five pillows; No. 4 will buy six sheets; No. 5, a pair of blankets; No. 6 will buy a side table; No. 7, twenty pillow cases; No. 8, twenty towels; No. 9, six bath towels; No. 10, six night gowns; No. 11 will provide a patient with sufficient food for a month; No. 12 provides drinking water for one patient a whole year; No. 13 secures two lanterns and furnishes them



with wicks and sufficient oil for 500 days; No. 14 buys twenty quarts of milk, sufficient to carry a typhoid patient through the siege; No. 15 will buy twenty dozen eggs, supplying our hospital for a whole year; No. 16 covers the sweeper's salary for a month; Nos. 17 and 18 cover the salary of an attendant in the woman's ward for a month; No. 19 will pay for the medicines and dressings used in three days; No. 20 provides 500 patients with one Gospel or ten with a nicely bound Bible.

Some of our friends are under the impression that everything is much higher in price here than at home, while others think just the opposite. You will find that building here is as high as it is at home. Milk is much higher here, costing 24 cents a quart. Eggs, however, are cheaper, costing from 15 to 18 cents a dozen. Water costs nothing at home, whereas here it costs a family of four people \$5.00 per month to drink the best sweet water.

Bahrein, P. G.

## How the Money Is Collected and Administered

JAMES L. AMERMAN, Treasurer

The Treasury office of the Arabian Mission has to do with the receipt of moneys contributed for its work and forwarding them to the field after deducting the sums necessary for maintaining the office, for collecting the gifts and for informing the donors concerning the progress of the work. It sounds very simple, does it not? Let us see what it includes:

### SYNDICATES

When the Arabian Mission was begun years ago its support was given largely through what was called "syndicates"—these were and still are of two kinds:

1. There are salary syndicates, when a church or other organization or an individual pledges a certain amount yearly for the salary of a missionary.

2. There are syndicates which take their name from the name of a church which pledges a certain sum to be paid each year for the general work.

At first the syndicates were all, or nearly all, of the latter kind. Now the salary syndicates are largely in excess of these. Then there are the miscellaneous gifts which come from church collections or the gifts of societies or individuals for the general work. These at the present time produce more income than either of the groups of syndicates.

An account is kept with each syndicate, and from time to time reminders are sent to subscribers telling them what is due from them. On the first of October, about a hundred such reminders are sent from the office. On the first day of the quarters beginning on the first of January, April, and July, the number is smaller because many subscribers pay the entire amount subscribed once a year, and for convenience the syndicate year is made to begin October 1.

### APPROPRIATIONS

Once a year the Trustees receive the estimates of the Mission for the ensuing calendar year, and after these have been considered by the

Finance Committee the Trustees act on the Committee's recommendation—and the result is the amount appropriated for the new year.

These appropriations are arranged with close attention to details and the amount required for each quarter, or for each month, is sent to the Mission Treasurer, and the effort is made to have the amount required in the hands of the Mission Treasurer or on deposit in bank subject to his order so that he can send what is needed to the Treasurers of the various stations before the first day of the month, whose expenditures they are intended to cover. To accomplish this it is necessary that our drafts be mailed from New York about two months in advance of the time when they are needed—for example, the money needed for the quarter beginning January 1st should be mailed from the office by the first of November. During the past two years it has not always been possible to do this and the Mission has been, therefore, sometimes seriously embarrassed.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

In attending to the matters thus set forth, there is a large amount of correspondence both with the missionaries in Arabia and with the supporters of the work. The action of the Trustees so far as relates to finances must be communicated to the Mission, after which explanations and questions arise in the field which must be considered at home and replies made. There has been also at times misunderstanding with regard to payment of subscriptions. Payments have been neglected or deferred until two quarters or two years are due instead of one, and the correctness of our reminders is questioned. Correspondence in such cases is not always a pleasure, but it is necessary. As a rule our friends are very kind and considerate, and the letters in regard to such errors we are always glad to write.

#### SHIPMENTS

Another matter which demands no little time and labor is the gathering together of packages and cases for shipment to the fields. There are no stated times for such shipments, the practice being to make them whenever we have enough goods on hand to make a shipment worth while. To send a single case or package is expensive, and the larger the shipment the better—as a rule—as the rates for freight, etc., are more favorable. But cases are not always ready to be sent away when they come to us—often they must be strengthened and sometimes even repacked before they can be sent, and this requires the examination of each one. Even merchants who are in the habit of sending their wares to widely separated places at home seem to be utterly ignorant concerning what is needed to make cases secure for foreign shipment. And when all is done and the goods are ready to go, the invoices must be written and later the analysis of charges worked out in order to make proper collections from the friends who are sending the goods and to serve also as a basis for the Mission Treasurers in apportioning the landing and forwarding charges on the other side.

The Treasury office is not afraid of work. The more of it the better so far as it ministers to the comfort and efficiency of our brethren and sisters in the field. Anything and everything that tends to these ends is welcome.

## Why You Should Take "The Moslem World"

MISS GERTRUD SCHAFHEITLIN

*A Quarterly Review of Current Events, Literature, and Thought among Mohammedans, and the Progress of Christian Missions in Moslem Lands.*

It is highly desirable that the number of subscribers to the "Moslem World" be increased. It is especially important that all the readers of "Neglected Arabia" be sufficiently interested in the whole religious and political system which arose in Arabia and in the missionary problem, of which that on the Persian Gulf is just a part, to subscribe to and study the "Moslem World." To missionaries on the field it would be a keen disappointment if those green quarterlies should fail to arrive and bring the information, help, and stimulation they have learned to expect from the "Moslem World." However, it is not for their sakes, but for your own good, that they wish you to read the "Moslem World," because, as your interest, which is comparatively local, personal, or denominational in Arabia, grows to take in the whole world of Islam, you will experience the joy that always accompanies an enlargement of heart and vision, and besides your interest in the country you already love cannot but become deeper and more intelligent. As you realize the difficulty and seriousness of the Moslem World Problem you will understand better the local problems in Arabia, and the difficulties that your missionaries meet there. Looking at our field only, you might be disappointed in the lack of direct results, but when you follow up the struggles of similar missionaries in other countries, you are not only comforted in seeing that their experience is not very different, but you see the truth of Rev. R. M. Labaree's words at a recent conference: "We do not have the direct results in converts that they have in many other parts of the world, and yet what we want to do is to impress the people that the immediate results are not the only criterion of success. All the world of Islam is seething with new social and political ideas. And these ideas are like the new wine in the old skins, with the proverbial result. There is a change, a revolution, if you please, in the Mohammedan world, and God is giving us an opportunity for Christian work which we never had before. Now is the time to enter into these doors which have been opened to us so strikingly in recent years." Therefore your faith in and enthusiasm for your own work in Arabia can only be increased by a study of the larger problem of Islam in the world.

You will find in every single number of the "Moslem World" a variety of articles that you will thoroughly enjoy. If your interest is in theology, you may turn first to the discussion of some point of Moslem doctrine and will discover what an intense theology has been developed in Islam; if you are fond of biographies, the sketches of the lives of the great pioneer missionaries to these fields will please you; others will like best the essays on the curious superstitions and popular customs and every-day life of the people. In these you cannot help reading between the lines the pathos and suffering of the actual Moslem World. Many value the historical sketches, the general surveys of particular

countries or the whole field, the discussions of methods of missionary work, the interpretation of current movements and events, or the reviews and criticisms of the many new books on Mohammedanism.

Our duty to be well informed on Islam just now is well expressed by Dr. Watson: "Present-day opportunities and needs in the Moslem work call the church of Christ, and especially the church in America, to a fresh study of the problems involved in carrying the Gospel to the Moslem World and a new devotion to the accomplishment of this task."

Bahrein, P. G.

## Current Comment

The purpose of this number of "Neglected Arabia" is to stimulate the giving of money. The missionary enterprise needs money. It is God's plan that it should, which is simply saying that He has provided this method of co-operation, open to everybody.

It is important to remember that "The Widow's Mite" is not "gratefully accepted" simply. It is the one gift needed. It is a fatal mistake to suppose that the evangelization of the world is an affair for the rich. It is the business of the whole church, of every Christian. More than that, Christ teaches us that the valuable gift is the gift which means self-sacrifice. It is the Widow's Mite that brings God's blessing with it, and it is God's blessing that we want. Money alone can no more advance the missionary enterprise in Arabia than it can make a tree grow.

Any man's personality may be put behind the evangelization of Arabia in prayer, and prayer is probably the very highest exercise of his faculties, but his market value he can send out in the form of gifts. Why should it be unusual for a man at home to put in a week's hard work for Arabia? Why, indeed, should not every man put in a day's work, at least, for the missionary cause every year? Can any one conscientiously argue for less? And are we not stewards, simply? Suppose we really were simply stewards, what would be the income of our Board? How much do you think?

God turns and overturns to accomplish His purposes. Since the number of this quarterly, Hassa has passed out of the control of the Turks, and with it Kateef and Katar. The new rulers are the Wahabis from Nejd. Their capital city is Riadh. It is too early to be certain of the outcome, but apparently it will mean one more open door calling for our prayers, and for men to enter.

With the opening of one door comes the apparent closing of another. A new Iman has been declared, and nearly the whole of Inland Oman, with all its promise, passes under the control of a new ruler, and probably a very fanatical one.

*Haec fabula docet* (only it is not a fable) not to leave open doors year after year without entering them.

It is hoped that the next number of "Neglected Arabia" may be devoted to Kuwait. The newest of our stations, it is in many ways the most interesting. Here and in Bahrein, the mission faces the real Arab



problem, the problem that must be met if we are to occupy Inland Arabia. When we see the Church of Christ established in communities like Kuwait, we may well feel that we are moving on toward the real accomplishment of our task.

## News Items

The schools in the different stations have been closed for the past month or more for the summer vacation. Busrah Boys' School has had a total enrollment of more than one hundred names and had a steady average attendance of eighty boys. Busrah Girls' School has had an enrollment of about thirty and an average attendance of about twenty girls. For some months past the government officials have tried in different ways to hinder the progress of these schools, finding fault with the program of lessons which included the study of the Bible. But at present they have ceased their efforts and have accomplished no hurt to the schools.

Bahrein school has had a good term. The attendance at the evening school was especially encouraging.

Kuwait school has again been reopened with a few of the former pupils who have come back for instruction at the house of the missionary.

The colporteurs in the Amara field have accomplished a successful trip up the Euphrates country and back by way of the Tigris river. They reported the roads quite safe but met some officials in one or two of the towns who threatened to start opposition to their work.

The Bible woman in Busrah finds many opportunities to visit the homes of Moslem women. The missionary in charge makes many acquaintances in the women hospital clinics and in this way gets different invitations to the homes in the villages.

There have been two men patients in the Busrah hospital who have become interested enough to read the Bible. One had come from the province of Hassa, where he had previously met Dr. Zwemer and had received the Bible and other books which he had read ever since. But they have many temptations thrown in their way and are very fearful of the people so that all their reading is in secret.

Bible work in Linga has been interrupted by the resignation of the colporteur, who has left the Mission. Another man must be found and prepared for this work.

Plans for the work of touring in Oman have become impossible for the men to complete them as intended. All the Arabs in the hinterland have taken up arms against the Sultan, who has his residence in Maskat. They have united upon another man of the Iman family and have collected an army to begin the conquest of all Oman and to enter Maskat against the present ruler. Already several of the strong places inland have been taken, and one of the sons of the Sultan, with a handful of men has been surrounded and besieged not far from Maskat. All the people in the immediate vicinity of the last-named town have become so frightened that they have fled from their homes and shops of business, taking as much of their belongings as possible with them to



Maskat. The British have landed a troop of soldiers from India, who have been stationed in the mountain pass above the two sea-coast towns, and they have two men-of-war ready at hand, and have landed heavy guns which they have mounted in one of the forts in the harbor, which also overlooks the walled town itself. The last reports were more favorable for temporary peace, at least, but it will probably be quite a time before the roads are safe and before permission is given to any one to travel inland among the people there.

The Arab Sheikh of Nejd has with his followers driven the Turkish officials and army garrisons out of the province of Hassa, which is on the mainland just west of the Bahrein islands. Where before there were Turkish representatives of the Constantinople government in Hofhoof and Kateef and Katar the Arabs now have the upper hand. At first we thought Turkey might send a force to reclaim this territory, but up to date nothing has happened, and one hears no more about it. For the present all that coast territory is closed to us, but we hope for friendship with the new men in power which will open the way for tours thither just like in Oman. Many more of the Bedawin Arabs have been coming to Bahrein and have come to us for treatment in the hospital.

Busrah, too, has had its disturbances. The Arabs round about the place have several times threatened to enter the city, and the Christians and Jews were quite frightened, fearing a massacre. There is also a party in the city which now seems to have combined with the Arabs in agitating demands for autonomy. At present, however, people do not expect great things from any party or government.

N. B.—The Arabian Mission depends for its support and the extension of its work, not on the treasury of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in America, though under its care and administration, but upon contributions specifically made for this purpose. The churches, societies and individuals subscribing are not confined to the Reformed Church. Members of other denominations are among its supporters and its missionaries. Regular gifts and special donations are invited from all who are interested in Mission work in Arabia. Regular contributors will receive quarterly letters and annual reports, without application. All contributions, or applications for literature or information, should be sent to "THE ARABIAN MISSION," 25 East 22d Street, New York.





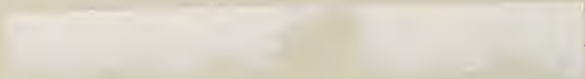
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